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Shuster Announces \$150,000 in Federal Funding for the Historic Mishler Theater in Altoona

Washington, D.C. – This morning, **Congressman Bill Shuster** joined local community leaders and members of the Blair County arts community to announce \$150,000 in federal funding to renovate the Mishler Theater in Altoona.

Shuster secured the funding in the Omnibus Appropriations Act to assist the Blair County Arts Foundation in its efforts to renovate the theater, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The funding will be used to cover the costs of labor and construction during the renovation process.

An example of the Mishler Theater's cultural and historic impact on those who visit it can be found in an Altoona Mirror article from earlier this month. Lucille Ball's daughter, Lucie Arnez, appeared at a benefit concert at the Mishler and was quoted as saying: "I don't do a lot of benefits, and I don't think we've ever done a benefit for a theater like this," Arnez said after the show. "You just don't find places like this. ... It really and truly is a jewel box, and to think it was almost razed a few years ago to put in a parking lot is just unconscionable. So few places like this exist."

"The Mishler Theater stands as a living monument to Altoona's history. I agree with Lucie Arnez that the theater is a jewel box and its historic architecture should be preserved and its cultural impact on the community should be applauded," **Shuster** said. "I am proud to have worked with the Blair County Arts Foundation to secure this funding to help continue the theater's historic run in Altoona."

"The BCAF is extremely grateful to Congressman Shuster and his staff for the support and dedication involved in obtaining this much needed funding", said the organization's Executive Director **Kate Shaffer**. "This theatre is not only an historical building in terms of its architectural and cultural significance; it's also the very heart of the entire arts community."

"We all owe Congressman Shuster a huge debt of gratitude for helping to ensure the Mishler continues to serve as the region's cultural home for yet another century," **Shaffer** said.

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